

B²
a DNA segment encoding a secretory peptide and a ligand-binding receptor polypeptide, said polypeptide comprising a sequence of amino acids selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) residues 141 to 337 of SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - (b) allelic variants of (a); and
 - [(c) sequences that are at least 80% identical to (a) or (b); and]
- a transcription terminator.

21. (amended) An expression vector comprising the following operably linked elements:

- Sulr
C8
B4
- (a) a transcription promoter;
 - (b) a DNA segment encoding a secretory peptide and a chimeric polypeptide, wherein said chimeric polypeptide consists essentially of a first portion and a second portion joined by a peptide bond, wherein said first portion [consisting essentially of] is a ligand binding domain of a receptor polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a receptor polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - (ii) allelic variants of SEQ ID NO:2[; and
 - (iii) receptor polypeptides that are at least 80% identical to (i) or (ii)],
- and wherein said second portion [consisting essentially of] is an affinity tag; and

- (c) a transcription terminator.

Sulr
C8
B4
26. (amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising a segment selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) residues 141 to 337 of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- (b) allelic variants of (a)[; and
- (c) sequences that are at least 80% identical to (a) or (b)],